FISHER, CHRISTEN & SABOL

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Course To the Sim-PAUL CRAPT NETFL JAMES LOT MS Do not Enter ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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DATE: 11/15/02 TELEFAX NO.: 703-746-7177
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FROM: Virgil H. Marsh, Reg. # 23,083
SUBJECT: USSN 09/505, 71 3
COMMENTS: Patent Examinea Monique R. Jackson
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FROM: VIRGIL & RUBY MARSH PHONE NO.: 3014695063

Kong when it licensed King Kong in agreements with Colero, Atari and Ruby-Spears. Nintendo argues that it is entitled to recover the \$4.76 million in revenue that Universal earned from these agreements because, in substance, Universal licensed not King Kong, but rather Nintendo's rights to Donkey Kong.

To recover on a theory of unjust enrichment under New York law, a party must establish not only that there was enrichment, but that the enrichment was at the plaintiff's expense, and that the circumstances dictate that, in equity and good conscience, the defendant should be required to turn over its money to the plaintiff. Dolmetta v. Uintah National Corp., 712 F.2d 15, 20 (2d Cir. 1983), see also McGrath v. Hilding, 41 N.Y.2d 625, 629 394 N.Y.S.2d 603, 606 (1977). A circuit court's review of an unjust enrichment determination is limited. "The granting of equitable relief lies within the sound discretion of the trial court, so long as that discretion is exercised in accordance with the applicable established precedents." Indyk v. Habib Bank Limited, 694 F.2d 54, 57 (2d Cir. 1982).

Nintendo sold its rights in Donkey Kong to Coleco, Atari and Ruby-Spears when it entered into license agreements with these three companies. Thus, on the face of the transactions involved in this case, Universal did not obtain money that was owed to Nintendo.

This is not to say that Universal acted properly when it entered into these three license agreements. Any injustice harmed not Nintendo, however, but the three companies that paid Universal. Equity requires, therefore, that if Universal must disgorge its profits, the money should be paid to these companies. Colecu has already sued Universal to recover the revenues it paid. Colecu Industries, Inc. v. Universal City Studios, Inc., 84 Civ. 2596 (S.D.N.Y. filed April 12, 1984). That case, not this one, represents the proper means to determine the propriety of Universal's conduct.

The judgment of the district court is affirmed.

Court of Appeals, Federal Circuit

Bausch & Lomb. Inc. v. Barnes-Hind: Hydrocurve, Inc. No. 85-2578 Decided July 14, 1986

PATENTS

Patentability — Invention — In general (§51.501)

Federal district court erred by holding lasermarked contact lens patent to be invalid, in

view of court's failure to grant patent its statutory presumption of validity, its over-reliance upon inventor's alleged opinion as to nonobviousness, its misuse of such opinion as substitute for determining level of skill of hypothetical person of ordinary skill, its use of improper hindsight analysis, its failure to consider prior art reference in its entirety, and its erroneous reliance upon irrelevant experiments.

Infringement — Tests of — Comparison with claim (§39.803)

Federal district court erred in its finding of non-infringement of contact lens patent, since court, in considering whether accused lenses were "smooth" like patented lenses, did not construc meaning of term "smooth" by resorting to specification, but instead distorted patent's claims by assessing smoothness according to approach that exceeded level of smoothness required in claim.

Particular patents - Contact Lenses

4,194,814, Fischer, McCandless, and Hager, Transparent Ophthalmic Lens Having Engraved Surface Indicia, holding of invalidity and non-infringement vacated.

Appeal from District Court for the Northern District of California, Aguilar, J.; 226 USPQ 780.

Action by Bausch & Lomb, Inc., against Barnes-Hind/Hydrocurve, Inc., and Barnes-Hind International, Inc., for patent infringement, in which defendants counterclaim for declaration of patent invalidity and non-infringement. From judgment for defendants plaintiff appeals. Vacated and remanded.

Laurence H. Pretty, and Pretty, Schroeder, Brueggemann & Clark, both of Los Angeles, Calif. (Craig S. Summers, Bernard D. Bogdin, and Howard S. Robbins, all of Rochester, N.Y., on the brief) for appellant.

John M. Calimafde, and Hopgood, Calimafde, Kalil, Blaustein & Judlowe, both of New York, N.Y. (Eugene J. Kalil, Dennis J. Mondolino, and Cilbert W. Rudman, all of Tuckahoe, N.Y., on the hrief) for appellees.

Before Markey, Chief Judge, Friedman, Circuit Judge, and Nichols, Senior Carcuit Judge.

Nichols, Senior Circuit Judge.

Appellant Bausch & Lomb, Inc. filed suit in the United States District Court for the North-

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in therr. District or California, alleging that appellee Barnes-Hind Hydrocurve. Inc. and Bathes-Hind International, Inc. (hereinafter Bathes-Hind) infringed patent No. 4,194,814 [3] I patent) in the manufacture and sale of its laser-marked contact lens. Barnes-Hind denice infringement and counterclaimed that the [314 patent was invalid, void, and unenforceaile. In No. C-83-20283-RPA, Judge Aquilar fortid the patent invalid for obviousness and no infringed. We vacate and remand.

Appellee Barnes-Hind relied to a large exter can deposition testimony which was never introduced into evidence. Because this testimony was not in evidence, it would have been improper for us to consider it and, therefore, we did not. This climinated much of Barnes-Hind's arguments on appeal.

Background

1. The Technology

Vision correcting contact lenses have become familiar; hard contact lenses were introduced in the early 1950's and soft lenses in 1971. Toric contact lenses, which correct for the eye condition known as astigmatism, have a similar history of usage: hard lenses from the early 1950's and soft from the first half of the 1970's. Toric lenses differ from standard contact lenses in having a prism base, i.e., one edge portion of the lens is thicker. Proper prescription and fitting of toric lenses on the cornea of the eye requires alignment of a central lens axis with this prism base. Markings on the contact lens surface greatly facilitate the fitting process.

Inks and other substances have been used since the early 1950's, however, those marking procedures suffer several disadvantages: difficulty of accurate application with possible FIA disapproval; possibility of dissolution, bluering, and allergic reactions. Mechanical marking, as with a sharp scribing tool or an abrading tool such as a dental bur, is also available, but not without its problems: inaccurate and inconsistent positioning of the mark, lens damage, inadequate visibility, and the expense and time involved.

2. The Potent

The '814 patent, entitled Transparent Ophthalmic Lens having Engraved Surface Indicia discloses an engraved contact lens and provides a method of engraving using a source of high intensity electro-magnetic energy, such as a laser. The mark, not as deep as the lens is finck, is surrounded by a smooth surface of unsublimated or unaffected polymer material with the result that edges of the markings do no inflame or irritate the eyelid of the lens

The claims in suit are 1, 2, and 7. Claim I provides:

An ophthalmic lens adapted to be placed in direct contact with eye tissue formed of a transparent cross-linked polymer material, said lens being characterized by identifying indicia engraved in a surface thereof by subjecting said lens to a beam of radiation emerging from a laser having an intensity and wavelength at least sufficient to sublimate said polymer and form depressions in said lens surface to a depth less than the thickness of said lens, said iens having a smooth surface of unsublimated polymer material surrounding said depressions, and by varying in a predetermined manner the point at which said laser beam impinges upon said lens surfaces to engrave said identifying indicia in said lens surface.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 with the limitation that the lens is formed by a cross-linked hydrophilic (water loving) polymer. Claim 7, a product claim, is similar to claim 1 but defines the depressions as relieved zones.

3. The Dispute

In February 1976, Mr. Donald Hager, then production manager at the Milton Roy Company, a manufacturer of soft contact lenses which was purchased by appellant Bausch & Lomb in 1979, sent to Carco. Inc., a distributor of laser equipment, six soft contact lenses for laser marking. At least two lenses were successfully marked. Around September 1976, Dr. David Fisher and Mr. James A. McCandless, also of Milton Roy Company, met with Mr. Hager to debrief him on the work. Soon thereafter, Mr. Hager resigned.

Dr Fisher and Mr. McCandless continued to work on the lens-marking system, and in November 1977 filed an application for the patent in suit, listing themselves and Mr. Hager as inventors. Mr. Hager declined to execute the patent application, being at that time the employee of another lens manufactur-ing company, Saufion International, Inc. and saying that he had not "invented anything in connection with laser marking of contact lens." He further said that he could not execute documents, under oath or otherwise, that represent the contrary. The patent and Trademark Office (PTO) initially, and on a second occasion, rejected all the claims as obvious over two prior art U.S. patents to Brucker (No. 3,833,786) (teaching the use of a laser to fenestrate, i.e., make holes, in contact lens to allow circulation of fluid through the lens) and to Caddell (No. 3,549.733) (disclosing the use of a laser to remove plastic from the surface of a printing plate to form a pattern). The PTO later issued the patent in 1980 as limited to a transparent cross-linked polymer having a smooth surface around the mark. Mr. Hager

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did sign as inventor in 1982. Meanwhile, Milton Roy commenced manufacture and marketing of laser-marked soft contact lenses in 1978.

Barnes-Hind's predecessor, Continuous Curve, Inc., introduced under the trademark HYDROCURVE a line of soft toric lenses around 1975-76 that were marked with an indentation by a bur. In 1981, Barnes-Hind offered a soft toric lens marked by a laser.

Bausch & Lomb filed suit, contending that certain laser-marked connect lenses manufactured and sold by Barnes-Hind infringe claims 1, 2, and 7 of the '814 patent. Barnes-Hind denied infringement and counterclaimed that the patent was invalid, void, and unenforceable. The parties narrowed the issue of infringement to whether the marks on the HYDROCURVE lenses are surrounded by a smooth surface of unsublimated polymer material with respect to claims 1 and 2 or a smooth and unaffected surface for claim 7.

4. The District Court Proceedings

The district court determined that Barnes-Hind "proved by clear and convincing evidence that the patent in suit (4,194,814) and each of its claims is invalid and therefore void." It concluded that the differences between the claims and the prior art would have been obvious, finding that "the fact that the claimed subject matter of the patent in suit was obvious to Mr. Hager is most indicative of the obviousness of the invention," and that "Dr. Brucker's experiments in laser marking contact lenses are further evidence in support of this court's finding of obviousness." The court further concluded that scanning electron microscope (SEM) photographs, showing "that the surface of these lenses surrounding the laser mark are not 'smooth and unsublimated' or 'unaffected' as those terms were defined by plaintiff [appellant] during the processing of the patent in suit," demonstrated lack of infringement in any case. Bausch & Lomb appealed.

Opinion

The judgment is premised on several legal errors: (1) disregard of the presumption of validity established by 35 U.S.C. § 282; (2) absence of the factual findings on the four inquiries mandated by Gruham v. John Deere Co., 383 U.S. 3, 17, 148 USPQ 459, 467 (1966); and (3) improper claim construction leading to the conclusion of noninfringement. We vacate the court's opinion and remand for a determination consistent with this opinion.

1. Presumption of Valuatty

A patent shall be presumed valid, and each claim shall be presumed valid independently of

the validity of other claims. 35 U.S.C. § 282. The burden is on the party asserting invalidity to prove it with facts supported by clear and convincing evidence. Loctule Corp. v. Ultraseal Ltd., 781 F.2d 861, 872, 228 USPQ 90, 97 (Fed. Cir. 1985); Jones v. Hardy, 727 F.2d 1524, 220 USPQ 1021 (Fed. Cir. 1984).

The record contains no reference to this statutory presumption of validity, nor does it appear that the district court considered separately the validity of the three claims at issue. By merely holding that "defendants have proved by clear and convincing evidence that the patent in suit (4,194,814) and each of its claims is invalid and therefore void," the district court improperly denied the '814 patent its statutory presumption of validity as to each claim.

The district court thought the examiner had been misled. Barnes-Hind argued and argues here that Bausch & Lomb (or rather its later acquired company Milton Roy) misled the examiner during prosecution. Appellees assert that "if the examiner had been correctly and forthrightly informed of Hager's and McCandless' opinions, the chemistry of the Brucker lens, and the teaching of the Caddell patent, he would not have issued the patent."

The record, however, does not support this

The examiner did know of Hager's temporary refusal to execute the application during prosecution and, as discussed more fully infra, a determination of nonobviousness is based, inter alia, on the opinion of a hypothetical person of ordinary skill in the art, not on the inventors' opinion. The weight to be attached to Hager's refusal cannot be exaggerated as the court below has done without clear error in view of Hager's self interest as an employee of a competitor and his later change of position. Instances of inventors refusing even to cooperate in obtaining issuance of a patent to be owned by an assignee are common and machinery is provided in 37 C.F.R. § 1.47 to deal with them. Section 1.47 provides that either a joint inventor or a proper assignee may file the application without the consent or signature of the inventor, just so the oath or declaration is accompanied by a petition including proof of pertinent facts. It is clear, therefore, that the PTO does not allow the inventor to erect that type of obstacle to obtaining patent protection. Such forethought is necessary, as otherwise an inventor's changed self interest might nullify a proper assignment. The district court's heavy reliance on Mr. Hager's assertions, if persisted in, would allow a co-inventor another chance at sabotage if the first effort has failed.

Finally, the examiner, who with the deference we owe governmental officials we assume has some expertise in interpreting the refer-

_ 105 S.Ct. 95, 224 USPQ 520

<u>'()</u> ence and some familiarity with the level of 42. kili in the art. American Host & Derrick Co. 1874 & Sony, Inc., 725 F.2d 1350, 1359, 22 F.SPQ 703, 770 (Fed. Cir.), cert. denied. 111 nd·v1 1,5 1984), did have the Brucker and Caddell pare as before him. Barnes-Hind's "mislead-. Za his ٠it

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ing he examiner" contention is insufficiently supported to overcome the presumption of calmics. As a final matter, we recognize, as the bute re the court is the same as that before the P[7), the burden on the party asserting invafidus is more difficult to meet. American Hart 725 F.2d at 1359, 220 USPQ at 770. L. Graham Findings

Obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is a question of law based on the underlying factual inquiries set forth in Graham v. John Deere (.396): (1) the scope and content of the prior act. (2) the differences between the prior art art (1) the claims at issue; (3) the level of ordinary skill in the art; and (4) objective evidence of secondary considerations. See, e.g., Loctile, 781 F.2d at 872, 228 USPQ at 97-98.

The Loctite court further stated: in patent cases, the need for express Grawem findings takes on an especially signifiant role because of an occasional tendency of district courts to depart from the Graham est, and from the statutory standard of obviousness that it helps determine, to the empting but forbidden zone of hindsight. Thus we must be convinced from the opinion that the district court actually applied Graham and must be presented with enough express and necessarily implied findings to know the basis of the trial court's opinion. 11, 328 USPQ at 98.

Here, as in Loctite and in Jones, we are not convinced that the district court applied the Gaham findings. Instead, it found Mr. Hager's opinion that the subject matter was ulavious "most indicative of the obviousness of the invention." This was legal error.

Unlike the district court, we have the benefit of the very clear exposition of the law in i. mdard Oil Co. v. American Cyanamid Co., "'4 F.2d 448, 454, 227 USPQ 293, 297-98 Fed. Cir. 1985):

The issue of obviousness is determined ensirely with reference to a hypothetical "person having ordinary skill in the art." It is unly that hypothetical person who is presumed to be aware of all the pertinent art. The actual inventor's skill is irrelevant to this inquiry, and this is for a very important cason. The statutory emphasis is on a person of ordinary skill. Inventors, as a class, according to the concepts underlying the

Constitution and the statutes that have creared the parent system, possess something call it what you will - which sets them apart from the workers of ordinary skill, and one should not go about determining obviousness under § 103 by inquiring into what patentees (i.e., inventors) would have known or would likely have done, faced with the revelation of references. [Emphasis in original.]

[1] In this regard then, the district court creed at least three times: it relied too heavily on the alleged opinion of one who was an inventor and patentee, and misused that opinion as a substitute for determining the level of skill of the hypothetical person of ordinary skill and what that person would have been able to do when in possession of the prior art, ! the scope and contents of which the court should also have determined.

The court also engaged in improper hindsight analysis to conclude the '814 patent would have been obvious. The court essentially adopted Barnes-Hind's argument that "the concept of forming ridgeless depressions having smooth rounded edges using a laser beam to vaporize the material is explicitly disclosed in the Caddell patent. This is exactly the same process claimed in the patent-in-suit and practiced by the plaintiff.

Barnes-Hind selected a single line out of the Caddell specification to support the above assertion: "one way in which this [forming ridgeless depressions can be achieved is to use a laser with high enough intensity to vaporize the plate material without melting it." Col. 5, lines 53-54. This statement, however, was improperly taken out of context. As the former Court of Customs and Patent Appeals held:

It is impermissible within the framework of section 103 to pick and choose from any one reference only so much of it as will support a given position to the exclusion of other parts necessary to the full appreciation of what such reference fairly suggests to one skilled in the art.

In re Wesslau, 353 F.2d 238, 241, 147 USPQ 391, 393 (CCPA 1965); see also In re Mercer, 515 F.2d 1161, 1165-66, 185 USPQ 774, 778 (CCPA 1975).

A full appreciation of Caddell's statement requires consideration of the immediately following sentences in the same paragraph and the paragraph after that. Viewed in that context, it is apparent that Caddell's ideal printing plate would have no ridges around the depression. The use of a high intensity laser is offered as a possible means to achieve the goal but is limited by several disadvantages. To overcome these disadvantages, Caddell suggests the use of a special class of polymer that forms ridgeless depressions. A complete read-

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ing demonstrates quite clearly that Caddell is setting up a strawman and pointing out its disadvantages to highlight the advantages of Gaddell's invention, that special class of polymers. The district court improperly viewed an isolated line in Caddell in light of the teaching of the '814 patent to hold for obviousness. This is improper hindsight analysis.

As further evidence of obviousness, the district court relied on Dr. Brucker's experiments in laser marking contact lenses. This too was error, in this case clearly erroneous factual error. The record does not support, indeed it contradicts, the supposition that Dr. Brucker had engaged in laser marking of soft contact lenses at the time of the present invention. On page 385 of the Appendix, in reply to Mr. Calimafde's question "when did Continuous Curve begin to experiment with laser marking of soft contact lenses?", Dr. Brucker replied "I believe it was in '79 — "'9, '80, somewhere in that area." The filing date of the '814 patent was November 10, 1977. Brucker's 3,833,786 patent for a method of fenestrating (putting windows in) contact lenses applies according to its claims to such lenses, both soft and hard. However, the record reflects that the need for such fenestration was as a mode of escape for fluid accumulating between the lens and the eye. Such a need does not exist respecting the soft lenses, the principal subject of the claims in suit, of which claim 2 is expressly limited to soft Jenses. They, being hydrophilic, absorb the fluid.

In sum, the district court improperly determined the '814 patent was obvious: it failed to make the Graham inquiries, it improperly focused on what was obvious to the inventor, it engaged in hindsight analysis, and it considered evidence that was not prior art. This court, as an appellate court, may not make the required Graham factual findings, and must therefore remained that determination to the district court. The district court should not agnore the four-part analysis the authorities require.

a. The scope and content of prior art To determine whether a reference is within the scope and content of the prior art, first determine if the reference is within the field of the inventor's endeavor. If it is not, then next consider whether the reference is reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the inventor was involved. In re Richard M. Deminski, 230 USPQ 313, 315, No. 85-2267, slip op. at 9 (Fed. Cir. July 8, 1986); Stratu-flex, Inc. v. Aeroquip Corp., 713 F.2d 1530, 1535, 218 USPQ 871, 876 (Fed. Cir. 1983). Orthopedic Equipment Co., Inc. v. United States, 702 F.2d 1005, 1008-11, 217 USPQ 193, 196-97 (Fed. Cir. 1983) focused on the claims in suit, the art the PTO applied to the claims, and the nature of the problem confronting the inventor. Further, the art must have existed as of the date of invention, presumed to be the filing date of the application until an carlier date is proved.

b. The differences between the claimed invention and the prior art

The court must view the claimed invention as a whole. See, e.g., Jones, 721 F.2d at 1527-28, 220 USPQ at 1024. We add, as a cautionary note, that the district court appeared to distill the invention down to a "gist" or "core," a superficial mode of analysis that disregards elements of the whole. It disregarded express claim limitations that the product be an ophthalmic lens formed of a transparent, cross-linked polymer and that the laser marks be surrounded by a smooth surface of unsulfinated polymer. See also, ACS Hospital Systems, Inc. v. Montefore Hospital, 732 F.2d 1572, 221 USPQ 929 (Fed. Cir. 1984).

c. Level of ordinary skill in the art In Environmental Designs, Ltd. v. Union Oil Co., 713 F.2d 693, 697, 218 USPQ 865. 868-69 (Fed. Cir. 1983), cert. denied, 464 U.S. 1043 (1984), the court listed six factors relevant to a determination of the level of ordinary skill: educational level of the inventor, type of problems encountered in the act. prior art solutions, rapidity of innovation, sophistication of technology, and educational level of active workers in the field. As to educational level of the inventor, see Standard Oil Co. v. American Cyanamid Co., 774 F.2d 448, 227 USPQ 293 (Fed. Cir. 1985); Orthor pedic Equipment Co. v. All Orthopolic Appliances, 707 F.2d 1376, 1382, 217 USPQ 1281. 1285 (Fed. Cir. 1983) ("Although the educational level of the inventor may be a factor in determining the level of ordinary skill in the art, it is by no means conclusive."

d. Objective indicia of obriousness such "secondary considerations," when present, must always be considered. Stratoffest 713 F.2d at 1538, 218 USPQ at 878-79, See also Cable Electric Products, Inc. p. Genmark. Paris To F 2d 1015, 1026-28, 226 USPQ 881. 887-88 Fed. Cir. 1985). Such evidence include commercial success, long felt but unre-solven needs, and failed attempts. Perkin-Flue Corp. v. Computervision Corp., 732 1 2d 848, 895-96, 221 USPQ 669, 675 (Fed. Cir.) - ort. denied, ____U.S. ___ 187, 115 USPQ 792 (1984). __ 105 S.Ci. Civ.) . ert, denied . -

We shall vacate the trial court's opinion and remand for an obviousness determination consister t with this opinion.

3. Infringement

The parties narrowed the infringement issuc ion trial to the question whether the surtace of Barnes-Hind lenses surrounding the mart nark is "smooth and unsublimated" or "unoffected." The district court concluded that "the Liser-engraved depressions in the surface of the HYDROCURVE II lenses have been examined by scanning electron microscope. These photographs show that the surface of these lenses surrounding the laser mark are not smooth and unsublimated' or 'unaffected' as those terms were defined by plaintiff during the prosecution of the patent in suit." Appellant Bausch & Lomb argues on appeal that the trit. rturi's approach of assessing smoothness at the very high levels of magnification obtainable by a SEM exceeds the level of smoothness required in the claims. We agree

because the first step in determining infringement is claim construction, improper clain, construction can distort the entire infrie cement analysis. Moeller v. Lonetics, Inc., 220 USPO 992, 994, No. 85-2646, slip op. at 7 fed. Cir. June 4, 1985). Such a distortion

occurred below.

Disputed issues such as the meaning of the 1900 "smooth," should be construed by resort to extrinsic evidence such as the specification, other claims, and the prosecution history. Here, resort to the specification clearly demonstrates that "smooth" meant that "the edges of the craters neither inflame nor irritate the eve.id of the lens wearer * * *. The markings provided on the lens surface in accordance with this invention *** are not perceived by the lens wearer ***." The prosecution histore supports this construction. A reading of the artendment and its accompanying remarks der ionstrates that smooth means the absence of a ridge that "would scratch either the eye or exclid and would lead to infection." There is no indication that smooth means absolutely ridge-free. (This review of the prosecution herion, also leads us to disagree with Barnes-bind's final argument that the prosecution history estops Bausch & Lomb from asserting intringement against the allegedly ridged HY-DROCURVE lens.) Testimony from Dr. Mandell, Bausch & Lomb's expert in the field of contact lenses, indicates that to a person of

ordinary skill in the art, smooth would mean an absence of "roughness or significant elevaan ausence of roughness or significant eleva-tion" so that a wearer "would not feel it with the levellid." Further, there is testimony that a person of ordinary skill in the art would use an optical microscope, not an SEM, to gauge the relative smoothness of an etched contact lens.

[2] We hold that smooth means smooth enough to serve the inventor's purposes. i.e., not to inflame or irritate the cyclid of the wearer or be perceived by him at all when in place. Accordingly, we vacate the district court's conclusion that the surface of the HY-DROCURVE lenses are not smooth or unaffeeted, and remand for a determination of infringement based on the proper construction of and proper test for smooth.

Conclusion

We vacate the district court's determination that the '814 patent is invalid and remand for a reconsideration of validity in light of the presumption of validity and the Graham findings on obviousness. We further vacate the decision of noninfringement and remand for proper claim construction and infringement analysis.

VACATED AND REMANDED

Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit

Fisher, et al. v. Dees, et al. No. 85-5888 Decided July 10, 1986

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1. Lafringement — In general (§24.201)

Allegedly infringing song which was intended to "poke fun" at copyrighted song, which was not used merely as vehicle to achieve comedic objective unrelated to copyrighted song, which is innocuous in its references and not obscene or immoral, which has no cognizable economic effect upon copyrighted song, and which takes no more from copyrighted song that what is necessary to reasonably accomplish its purpose as parody is parody entitled to fair use protection.